

Putting America Back on a Sustainable Fiscal Path

Responsible budgeting means adhering to some basic principles: don't spend more than you take in and make smart investments that will help you down the road. I'm committed to making the tough decisions to actually cut wasteful and unnecessary spending. When times are tough, western Wisconsin families tighten their belts and that's exactly what we need to do in Washington.

BUDGETARY DISCIPLINE – KEEPING CONGRESS ON THE PATH TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

- **STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO (Signed into law)** – forces tough choices by restoring the 1990s law that helped turn record deficits into surpluses by ensuring that Congress must pay for new policies that reduce revenues or expand entitlements.
- **TRUTH IN SPENDING ACT (Cosponsor)** – requires Congress & the Administration to examine and reassess the costs and projected savings of spending legislation every 5 to 10 years and creates a fast-track process to eliminate cost overruns.
- **GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY LEGISLATION (Passed into Law)** - original cosponsor of H. Res. 40 which passed unanimously and requires yearly oversight hearings by every committee on combating waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in agencies under each committee's jurisdiction. It's critical to hold government accountable for spending taxpayer dollars and this legislation was another victory in my mission to do just that.
- **BUDGET ENFORCEMENT RESOLUTION** – sets a limit on discretionary spending for FY2011 that requires spending cuts of \$7 billion below the President's budget and \$3 billion below the Senate resolution.

CUTTING GOVERNMENT SPENDING

- **TAKE CONTROL OF RISING HEALTH CARE COSTS.** The *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (Signed into Law) begins addressing rising health care costs and reduces the deficit by \$143 billion over the next ten years – and by \$1.2 trillion more over the following decade. I'm committed to continue building on health care reform's foundation so that we keep moving toward a health care system that provides better care at a better cost.
- **REIN IN DEFENSE SPENDING.** We must end wasteful spending and cost overruns in the Pentagon budget. I supported the *Weapons System Acquisition Reform Act (Signed into Law)*, which saves taxpayers money by cracking down on Pentagon waste and the *Improper Payment Elimination and Recovery Act* (Signed into Law), which reduces wasteful, improper federal payments by \$50 billion between now and 2012. These are important first steps but even more must be done to address cost overruns in military and government projects.
- **earmark REFORM.** Controlling spending means reforming the earmark process so that government spending is fiscally responsible, this is why I have cosponsored two bills to reform earmarks, *H.R. 2512*, to prohibit earmarks for private, for-profit entities and the *Clean Law for Earmark Accountability Reform Act*, prohibiting Members from receiving contributions from entities who sought an earmark. I also forgo earmarks and over the last two years, I've voted against appropriations bills that included over \$12 billion in earmarks because I'm fighting to reign in that wasteful spending.
- **FIX FARM SUBSIDIES.** Agriculture policies should reflect the need of the average farmer, not giant agribusiness. Each year the federal government doles out billions of dollars in agricultural subsidies, mostly going to very large farms and agribusinesses that make many times the income of the average American family. We need to reform agriculture subsidies so they provide assistance on the family farmers that need help during economic downturns.

PROTECTING THE MIDDLE CLASS AND A FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE TAX POLICY

- **ADDRESSING THE EXPIRING BUSH TAX CUTS.** The last thing we need in the midst of a recession is to raise taxes on middle class Americans, who need more money in their pockets not less. That's why I support extending the tax cuts for all families making up to \$250,000 a year. But for those advocating extending tax cuts for wealthy Wall Street bankers, I urge them to find ways to pay-for those tax cuts so that they don't add to our national debt and get passed along to our children and grandchildren.